

## ABSTRACT

A gift registry providing a partial payment option for gift givers and a mandatory  
5 and contingent gift substitution for gift recipients. The gift recipient registers any type of  
gift idea from any store or establishment, for any occasion with an associated gift amount  
in the registry. The registrant is able to name their own gift price by selecting a gift  
amount not necessarily the same as the retail cost of the gift idea. The gift recipient also  
indicates whether they will accept a contingent substitute of gift or cash if the system is  
10 unable to provide the gift idea at the gift amount. The recipient can also select mandatory  
substitution of gift or cash. The difference between mandatory and contingent  
substitution is that mandatory substitution automatically occurs while contingent  
substitution occurs if and only if the selected gift is unavailable at the specified gift  
amount or could not be delivered in time. In effect, mandatory substitution for cash  
15 allows the registrant to arrange for automatic gift return and receipt of a cash gift. Gift  
givers are able to review gift ideas and associated gift amounts and select them. A gift  
giver is also able to select a gift idea and make a partial contribution toward purchase of  
the gift idea. This allows higher cost gifts to be purchased by multiple gift givers and  
thereby provides recipients and givers with greater flexibility in their gift selection.  
20 When a mandatory or contingent substitution for cash is provided, the system includes  
incentives, such as coupons. The coupons or incentives are independently profitable and  
help to offset the cost of managing the mandatory and contingent substitutions.